

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 58

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO REPORT TO THE
12 LEGISLATURE ON THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF
13 THE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION ARTICULATION ACT, ENACTED IN 1995,
14 AND THE PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATE EDUCATIONAL
15 INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR BRANCH COMMUNITY COLLEGES REQUIRING
16 CREDIT TRANSFER, ENACTED IN 1963, AND TO RECOMMEND FUNDING
17 FORMULA AND OTHER PENALTIES FOR STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
18 THAT DO NOT ABIDE BY THE STATUTORILY REQUIRED STATEWIDE
19 ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS AND APPLICABLE BRANCH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
20 AGREEMENTS.

21
22 WHEREAS, since the growth of branch and independent
23 community colleges, the legislature has been concerned with the
24 issues of post-secondary education articulation, or the
25 transfer of course credit from one educational institution to

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1 another; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1963, the legislature enacted what is now
3 Section 21-14-2 NMSA 1978, which provides that agreements
4 between branch community colleges and their parent educational
5 institutions must include the provision that "the higher
6 education institution...honor all credits earned by students as
7 though they were earned on the parent campus"; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1995, the legislature enacted the
9 Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act, which spelled out
10 the requirements for articulation agreements, including a
11 common course naming and numbering system for courses
12 identified as substantially equivalent lower-division courses
13 and the establishment of a process to identify courses as
14 substantially equivalent; and

15 WHEREAS, institutions were required to develop transfer
16 modules that include a common general education core component
17 and that include a comprehensive array of lower-division
18 college-level courses designed to demonstrate skills in
19 communication, mathematics, science, social and behavioral
20 science, humanities, fine arts or comparable areas of study
21 coordinated for the purpose of providing a foundation for a
22 liberal education for all programs normally leading to a
23 baccalaureate degree; and

24 WHEREAS, the law requires that the general education core
25 transfer as a block and count as required lower-division

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1 coursework toward a degree, and any course in the core shall be
2 transferable and shall count as credit hours toward fulfilling
3 an institution's general education core requirements; and

4 WHEREAS, the law also provides for discipline modules that
5 consist of an agreed-upon number of hours and courses,
6 including the general education core, applicable to the
7 discipline, and any course within the discipline module is
8 transferable and shall count toward fulfilling degree
9 requirements at a four-year institution; and

10 WHEREAS, despite long-standing law, there is still no
11 consistency with New Mexico's four-year institutions as to
12 which community college courses are included in their transfer
13 or discipline modules; and

14 WHEREAS, when courses are not transferred, both the
15 students and the state pay twice, basically, for the same
16 course, once at a community college and again at the university
17 that did not recognize the course for credit or as a
18 prerequisite course; and

19 WHEREAS, students lose time having to take courses over,
20 prolonging their educational time and delaying the start of
21 their careers; and

22 WHEREAS, many education experts believe that the longer it
23 takes to graduate, the less likely someone is to graduate; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico students deserve to know in advance
25 whether state universities will honor their community college

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1 coursework, and community colleges must do a better job of
2 communicating that information to their students; and

3 WHEREAS, the Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act
4 allows for remedies for students if a student's articulation
5 complaint regarding courses contained in a module is upheld,
6 but the complaint process is laborious and discouraging; and

7 WHEREAS, publicly funded colleges and universities should
8 obey the law or face significant penalties when they do not
9 have in place signed articulation agreements or they do not
10 honor those agreements or their branch community college
11 agreements;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be
14 requested to report to the legislature on the progress of
15 implementing the provisions of the Post-Secondary Education
16 Articulation Act, enacted in 1995, and provisions of agreements
17 between state educational institutions and their branch
18 community colleges requiring credit transfer, enacted in 1963,
19 and to recommend funding formula and other penalties for state
20 educational institutions that do not abide by the statutorily
21 required statewide articulation agreements and applicable
22 branch community college agreements; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public post-secondary
24 educational institutions cooperate with the higher education
25 department and provide any information requested by the

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1 department in furtherance of this legislative request; and
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the secretary of higher education for
4 appropriate distribution and to the legislative education study
5 committee and the legislative finance committee.

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